

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1466 without my signature.

I strongly agree with the intent of this bill which is to develop an eradication plan to control and eradicate tamarisk in the Colorado River watershed. However, this measure requires the Department of Water Resources, in consultation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Colorado River Board to develop a comprehensive plan for eradication of this plant species and the re-establishment of native vegetation. The estimated cost to develop the plan is \$3.3 million and if implemented, the eradication costs for tamarisk are estimated to cost \$626 million.

Instead of directing only state agencies to develop the plan, legislation should provide authority and direction for the appropriate state entities to work with the other Colorado Lower Basin States, the federal government, and local water districts receiving water out of the Colorado River. Cooperation among all these entities will be required for success of any plan; therefore, it should be developed cooperatively by all these entities.

For these reasons I cannot support this bill.

Sincerely

Arnold Schwarzenegger